



Project Name: Roosevelt Estates Acquisition

Project Number: 1422-13-13

Disaster Name: Rodeo-Chediski Fire

Location: Gila County

Lat/Long: 33° 37' 25.36" N, 111° 00' 9.22" W

State/Completion Dates: June 4, 2003 - April 23, 2007

PROJECT SUMMARY

Theodore Roosevelt Lake was formed by the construction of a masonry dam on the Salt River in 1911, making it the oldest artificial reservoir in Arizona. About 10 miles of the original river are now beneath the waters. Many homes were constructed in the 1960's along the south of the lake and many of these homes are subject to repetitive damage from flash flooding. Roosevelt Estates is one of the communities in this area.

Near the corner of Ash Street and Palo Verde Drive, the geographic low point of the Roosevelt Estates, six homes were flooded by the 2003 monsoon storms, three of them suffered substantial damage, and two of the three were left uninhabitable. This is the area where Campaign Creek and Pinto Creek converge. During that storm six to twelve inches of rain fell in a 12 hour period. Altogether 20 homes lost all utilities for one day and phones were out for one week. The damage zone was eight miles square.

This area, and these homes, had been damaged repetitively in flooding events because of their location near the confluence of the two major drainages.

In the summer of 2002 the largest, most severe fire in Arizona history, the Rodeo-Chediski Fire, burned nearly a half-million acres of wilderness and triggered a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Arizona. Gila County received hazard mitigation funding due to that disaster and applied to the State and FEMA for grant moneys to purchase the flood-damaged homes and return the lots to a natural state.

Budgeting their limited funds, not all of the affected properties could be purchased at this time. Mariano Gonzalez, Jr., Deputy Director of the Division of Governmental Relations and Emergency Management for Gila County, served as project manager for the acquisition. "Five homes had initially been targeted [for acquisition] but the three [with most damage] had 50% destruction [in the 2003 floods]," Gonzalez explained. One house had an external wall damaged, and another house was moved from its foundation.

The costs for purchasing the three homes totaled \$298,388.45, including appraisal and escrow fees. With a total assessed value of \$265,000 for the three homes, the savings from damages prevented (to these three properties alone) from floods occurring in 2005 and 2006 equals more than one-half of a million dollars.

Today the acquired property shows no sign of having been built upon. Cottonwoods, Eucalyptus trees and native chaparral grow among the rocks. Additionally, Gila County has placed a permanent deed restriction on the properties, preventing any future development except for public facilities associated with open space or recreational uses.

PHOTOS

Before

Photo by: Gila County Emergency Management



The costs for purchasing the three homes totaled \$298,388.45, including appraisal and escrow fees.

After

Photo by: FEMA



Roosevelt Estates HMGP acquisition where three homes stood at the corner of Ash and Palo Verde